

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCI-06 SCEM-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 /176 W

----- 121094

R 130949Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7527

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS OSLO 4581

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG NO

SUBJECT: SOVIET UNION HOLDS UP OIL DELIVERIES TO NORWAY

1. NOREXIM A/S, A NORWEGIAN TRADING COMPANY, REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS HOLDING UP DELIVERIES OF OIL PRODUCTS TO NORWAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, UNDER THE CONTRACT WITH NOREXIM, THE SOVIET UNION HAD UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPLY NORWAY WITH ABOUT 600,000 TONS OF OIL PRODUCTS IN 1973, 80,000-100,000 TONS OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DELIVERED. THE OIL CONTRACT WITH NOREXIM IS NOT PART OF THE NORWEGIAN-SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT.

2. NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT AN OFFICIAL OF NOREXIM BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET DECISION IS A REFLECTION OF A DOMESTIC OIL SHORTAGE CONTRIBUTED TO BY REDUCED DELIVERIES TO THE SOVIET UNION OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM WEST EUROPE. THE NOREXIM PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CONSISTED OF REFINED PRODUCTS, NOTABLY FUEL OILS FOR HEATING AND

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LOW OCTANE GAS. NOREXIM HAS SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO

MOSCOW TO NEGOTIATE RESUMPTION OF THE SOVIET OIL SUPPLIES.
THE SHORTFALL IN DELIVERIES REPRESENTS 3 TO 4 DAYS OF
TOTAL NORWEGIAN CONSUMPTION.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF
THE SOVIET DECISION TO HOLD UP FURTHER OIL DELIVERIES, AN
OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT
THE USSR HAD DEMANDED MUCH HIGHER PRICES, CLAIMING
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH INVALIDATE CON-
TRACTED PRICES. THIS HAS OCCASIONED SOME SURPRISE SINCE IT
HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD USE OIL AS A
FURTHER MEANS OF FOSTERING THEIR RELATIONS WITH NORWAY.
NEGOTIATION OF A CONTRACT FOR DELIVERY OF OIL NEXT YEAR IS
UNDERSTOOD TO BE SIMILARLY STALLED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PUSHED
BY THE NORWEGIAN COMMERCE MINISTER WHEN HE VISITED MOSCOW
RECENTLY. GRIFFITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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